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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13
HA-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SY-05
A-01 OPR-02 PC-01 AID-05 CCO-00 OC-06 OMB-01
CA-01 MCT-01 SCS-06 USSS-00 SYE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 PPT-01 FS-01 EB-08
COME-00 MMO-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PER-01 DOE-15
DOEE-00 SOE-02 /179 W
----------112169 161315Z /46
O 161120Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9714
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1530
US MISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 141
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 4841

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION (SITREP 2)-MAY 16, 1978)

A) STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION REFINING AND UPDATING THAT CONTAINED IN SITREP, INDICATES THAT THERE ARE NOW 76 AMCITS IN KOLWEZI AREA AND ONE AMERICAN CATHOLIC MISSIONARY AT KASAJI (125 MILES EAST OF KOLWEZI).

THE 76 PERSONS IN KOLWEZI BREAKS DOWN AS FOLLOWS: 62 CIS EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AT THEIR WORK CAMP PLUS 3 OTHER CIS PEOPLE IN CITY PRESENTLY BEHIND HOSTILE LINES; TWO GECAMINES EMPLOYEES, TWO ROMAN CATHOLIC AND SIX METHODIST MISSIONARIES. FINALLY, TOURIST RICHARD BLACK THOUGHT TO BE IN KOLWEZI.

THE EIGHT AMERICANS FROM LIKASI AREA TRAVELLED OVERLAND TO LUBUMBASHI, ARRIVING 1200 ZULU 15 MAY. THIS GROUP WAS COMPOSED OF THREE METHODISTS (NOT IDENTIFIED IN SITREP I), TWO MENNONITE MISSIONARIES (IDENTIFIED SITREP I), AND THREE PCV'S IDENTIFIED SITREP I (ONE FROM MULUNGUISHI AND TWO FROM LIKASI). THESE PCV'S ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO WERE IN THE IMMEDIATE DANGER ZONE.

PRESENT NUMBER COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE CIS EVACUATION OF APPROXIMATELY 62 PERSONS FROM BASE CAMP EIGHT KM. NORTHWEST OF KOLWEZI. THE CIS PERSONNEL WOULD TRAVEL BY ROAD AND/OR BY AIR TO CIS CAMP AT MUSONOIE (80 KM NORTH). THERE THEY WOULD JOIN 10 OTHER CIS AMCITS.
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FROM MUSONOIE THEY WOULD BE EVACUATED BY AIR TO KANANGA.
B) MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 0900 LOCAL TIME MAY 16.
NOTE: AL GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM JOIN OPERATIONS GRAPHICS SERIES 1501 MAPS.

EMBASSY HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT FAZ DROPPED A PARATROOP COMPANY NEAR BRIGADIER GENERAL DIKUTA'S HEADQUARTERS AT DAWN MAY 16. ACCORDING TO GENERAL BABIA, THE PARATROOPS AND OTHER REINFORCEMENTS SHOULD ENABLE FAZ TO RETAKE THE KOLWEZI AIRPORT TODAY. PRESIDENT MOBUTU REPORTEDLY HAS DECIDED TO STRIP WESTERN SHABA OF ITS DEFENSES, IF NECESSARY, IN ORDER TO RECAPTURE KOLWEZI.

THE ZAIRIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DDNST) REINSTITUTED DAILY SHABA SITUATION BRIEFINGS FOR MILITARY ATTACHES ON MAY 15. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ZAMISH CHIEF EARLY MAY 16, GENERAL BABIA SAID GOZ COUNTERATTACK GOING VERY WELL. BABIA SAID THAT KATANGAN FORCES FLEEING IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS. WE HAVE NO REPORTS CONCERNING FAZ PRESENCE IN CITY OF KOLWEZI. WE DO NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT GENERAL BABIA'S REPORTS ARE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC.
C) TROOP DEPLOYMENTS AS OF 1000 LOCAL TIME MAY 16.
HOSTILE FORCES: DDNST BRIEFERS REPORTED NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE REGARDING HOSTILE FORCES IN KOLWEZI. DDNST ESTIMATES HOSTILE

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STRENGTH IN KOLWEZI TO BE BETWEEN 800 AND 1200 MEN, AND BELIEVES THE BULK OF HOSTILE FORCES REMAINS IN THE VICINITY OF CAIANDA, ANGOLA (1100S/2332E). GIVEN THEIR EARLIER ESTIMATE OF REBEL STRENGTH AT 11 BATTALIONS OF ABOUT 450 MEN EACH, THIS WOULD LEAVE SOME 4000 HOSTILE TROOPS
SO FAR UNCOMMITED TO ACTION.

ZAIRIAN FORCES: FAZ BATTALION OF THE 14TH BRIGADE THAT HAD REMAIN ED
IN KINSHASA, AND THE NEW PARACHUTE BATTALION BEING TRAINED BY FRENCH ADVISORS, WERE SENT TO LUBUMBASHI ON MAY 15. A RELIEF FORCE DRAWN FROM THESE UNITS LEFT LUBUMBASHI VIA LIKASI FOR KOLWEZI AND ARE MOVING TOWARDS KOLWEZI AIRFIELD. DATT OBSERVED THE ARRIVAL OF APPROXIMATELY 100 MEMBERS OF THE PARACHUTE BATTALION, WITHOUT FRENCH ADVISORS, IN LUBUMBASHI ON MAY 15.
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TWO BATTALLIONS PREVIOUSLY STATIONED AT MUTSHATSHA REPORTEDLY MOVING INTO KOLWEZI FROM WEST. THE THIRD BATTALION FROM KAMINA HAS BEEN ORDERED TO KOLWEZI. TWO COMPANIES FROM UNITS AIRLIFTED TO LUBUMBASHI FROM KITONA BASE HAVE NOW TAKEN UP POSITIONS ON THE KOLWEZI SIDE OF THE BRIDGE OVER NZILU LAKE LINKING KOLWZZI WITH LIKASI AND LUBUMBASHI.

GENERAL BABIA INFORMED US MAY 16 5#-5 529 :-130'S HAD SUCCESSFULLY DROPPED ONE PARACHUTE COMPANY NORTHEAST OF KILWEZI AT DAWN. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE LINKED UP WITH SHABA COMMAND POST. CIS HAS JUST RADIOED THAT THEY OBSERVED ANOTHER DROP IN THE SAME LOCATION BY TWO C-130'S AT APPROXIMATELY 0930 KINSHASA TIME.

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13
HA-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SY-05
A-01 OPR-02 PC-01 AID-05 CCO-00 OC-06 OMB-01
CA-01 MCT-01 SCS-06 USSS-00 SYE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 PPT-01 FS-01 EB-08
COME-00 MMO-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PER-01 DOE-15
DOEE-00 SOE-02 /179 W
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O 161120Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
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AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1531
US MISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 142
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 4841

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF

DEPT PASS PEACH CORPS

D) INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. AS OF THE MORNING OF MAY 16 THE KINSHASA POPULATION REMAINS CALM. THERE IS AN INITIAL HESITATION TO EXPRESS ONE'S VIEWS BASED ON THE MEMORY OF THE RAPID CHANGES OF FORTUNE WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THE LAST SHABA WAR. THERE IS, MOREOVER, A PAUCITY OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL POPULATION REGARDING CURRENT SHABA DEVELOPMENTS. A DISTANCE OF OVER 1500 KILOMETERS COMPLICATED BY A DETERIORATED OR NONEXISTANT ROAD/RAIL NETWORK MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR TRAVELLERS FROM SHABA TO BRING FIRST-HAND NEWS INTO KINSHASA. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA HANDS OUT NEWS ONLY SPORADICALLY AND THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IS PREDICTABLY OPTIMISTIC. AS A RESULT OF THE LACK OF NEWS, RUMORS ARE RIFE IN KINSHASA. PRESENTLY THE SO-CALLED "SIDEWALK RADIO" IS THE ONLY GENERALLY-TRUSTED MEDIUM OF NEWS IN KINSHASA. AS LONG AS PARTICULARLY THREATENING BITS OF NEWS ARE NOT PICKED UP ON THIS INFORMAL NETWORK, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN KINSHASA CAN BE EXPECTED

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TO REMAIN STABLE.
THE GOZ IS NOT LEAVING THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN KINSHASA TO
CHANCE. CLAIMING ENEMY INFILTRATION INTO KINSHASA, THE KINSHASA POLIC
E
CHIEF INFORMED EMBASSY THAT TWO ZONES OF THE CITY WOULD BE ENCIRCLED
EACH NIGHT AND WOULD BE SWEPT BY THE ARMY. THE SOLDIERS WILL BE LOOKI
NG
FOR "LUNDA" TRIBESMEN OR OTHER PEOPLE WHOSE ORIGIN IS SHABA PROVINCE.
THE SWEEPS BEGAN THE NIGHT OF MAY 14/15. THE POLICE CHIEF
STATED THAT THOSE WHO WERE SUSPICIOUS OR HAD FAULTY IDENTITY CARDS WO
ULD
BE IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED. THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE IN
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KINSHASA OF OVERT ARMY ACTION TO RESTRAIN THE POPULATION. AS
REPORTED IN SITREP I, THE ONLY DAYTIME EVIDENCE OF GOZ CONCERN
IS MORE ARMED SOLDIERS ON THE STREET.
E) SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE.
NONE IN THIS SITREP.
F) DOMESTIC PRESS COVERAGE. KINSHASA'S DOMESTIC
FRENCH-LANGUAGE MASS MEDIA CONTINUE THEIR OPTIMISTIC AND APPARENTLY
SPOTTY REPORTING ON THE FIGHTING IN SHABA PROVINCE. MONDAY EVENING'S
VOICE OF ZAIRE NEWS BROADCASTS REPORTED THAT "FIERCE FIGHTING" IS
CONTINUING FOR POSSESSION OF KOLWEZI, AND NO MENTION WAS MADE OF
THE MILITARY SITUATION IN OR AROUND MUTSHATSHA. TWO NEW TOUCHES
IN THE RADIO REPORTING WERE THE STATEMENT THAT "IT IS TOO
EARLY TO ESTABLISH THE (MILITARY) BALANCE-SHEET (BETWEEN OPPOSING
FORCES), AND THE REPORT THAT THE POPULATION OF KOLWEZI "WERE
HORRIFIED AT THE PILLAGING OF STORES AND BANKS,...THUS SEEING THE
TRUE PICTURE OF THOSE WHO CAME FROM ANGOLA WITH THE SUPPOSED
INTENTION OF LIBERATING THE COUNTRY." TUESDAY MORNING'S REPORTING
REMAINED THE SAME.
EDITORIALLY, VOZ DIRECTOR MAVUNGU EXHORTED ZAIRIANS TO
SUPPORT MOBUTU; A REPEAT OF ELIMA'S MAY 15 EDITORIAL.
MAY 16 EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY
"ELIMA" OPINES THAT THE ALLEGED ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN PARTICIPATION
"IS A MEASURE OF THE MORAL DEBT THEY OWE THE SOVIET UNTION, WHICH IS
HELPING THEM DISTURB THE PEACE IN WESTERN SAHARA AND CHAD." THE
EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT ZAIRE WOULD RATHER
BE FREE AND POOR THAN RICH AND SLAVE TO THE SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM...
WHICH THE SOVIET UNION HAS BROUGHT TO DESTABILIZE AFRICA."
G) DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY. AS REPORTED (PARIS 15417, NOTAL)
FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA DI LUTETE DISCUSSED INVASION WITH SENIOR
UN REP IN PARIS, WHILE (STATE 123725, NOTAL) GOZ PERM REP MUKEBA
INFORMED US SEC GEN WALDHEIM AFTER CONSULTING WITH UMBA (KINSHASA 479
8,
NOTAL). THEREFORE, UMBA WILL NOT TRAVEL TO NEW YORK AS REPORTED
KINSHASA 4760. WE ARE NOT AWARE AS YET OF ANY DECISION REGARDING
GOZ APPEAL TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL.
STATE 123725 ALSO REPORTED ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR KASONGO'S

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MAY 15 MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE NEWSOM IN WASHINGTON.
RABAT 2856 CONFIRMED THAT GOZ FORMALLY REQUESTED MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE ON MAY 14 WITH GOM REPLY EXPECTED ON MAY 15 OR 16.
H) PETROLEUM SITUATION. SOURCE IN LOCAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ADVISED THAT DISTRIBUTORS ARE AWAITING FORMAL ORDERS FROM FAZ AND INFORMATION AS TO EXACT PLACE OF DELIVERY BEFORE ACTING UPON MAY 15 FAZ ORDER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL POL SUPPLIES. SOURCE ESTIMATES THAT IN ORDER TO SUPPLY SHABA AT THIS POINT ABOUT 1.065 MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE NEEDED TO PURCHASE 2,000 CUBIC METERS GASOLINE AND 2,000 CU.M. JP-1 FROM THE NDOLA REFINERY IN ZAMBIA. MOREOVER , A SPECIAL SHIPLOAD OF PRODUCT IN ADDITION TO THE TANKERLOAD ARRIVING ON MAY 19 WILL BE NEEDED FOR KINSHASA AND FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT, THIS WOULD INCLUDE 1500 TONS OF AVIATION GAS; 3500 TONS GASOLINE, 6000 TONS JP-1, AND 7000 TONS DIESEL AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR KINSHASA AT A TOTAL COST OF 2.1 MILLION DOLLARS. THE LAGTIME ON DELIVERY OF THIS SPECIAL SHIPMENT WOULD BE ONE MONTH.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 may 1978
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
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